



Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia Regulations Master Courses in Music Studies 2026-2027

Singing Course Professor Sara Mingardo

Harpichord and piano accompaniment Pierfrancesco Borrelli

Admission

Admission requirements

- The three-year course is open to musicians of any nationality who are **no more than 27 years of age**.
- Candidates must possess a 1st or 2nd Level Degree or Conservatory Diploma (old Italian system) in Vocal Studies. Qualifications obtained abroad shall be considered valid only where formally recognised as equivalent to an Italian Conservatory Diploma. The responsibility for obtaining such recognition, in accordance with applicable Italian legislation, shall rest with the candidate. Candidates should be fluent in the Italian language.

Exceptions to these requirements may be permitted only in extraordinary cases, subject to evaluation and approval by both the professor and the Academic Board, in the presence of outstanding artistic merit.

Admission shall be granted only upon fulfilment of the above requirements and successful completion of the entrance examination.

Applications for admission

Applications for admission must be submitted online via the following link:

<https://santacecilia.it/en/master-courses/form-di-iscrizione-corsi-di-perfezionamento>

by no later than the **19 July 2026**.

Submission of the application will be confirmed via email notification from the Accademia.

The following documents must be attached to the online application:

- diploma certificate
- artistic CV and list of studied repertoire;
- examination programme at the candidate's choice;
- photocopy of passport or other identification document;
- proof of payment of the examination admission fee.

Entrance examination Programme

Candidates must prepare three operatic pieces of differing periods and styles, including one work from the Baroque repertoire.

Mode

Entrance examinations will be held at the Academy's headquarters at Via Vittoria 6 (Rome), on **21 October 2026**. Candidates will receive their official schedule via email.

Candidates must provide a valid identification document and provide all musical materials required for the examination, including scores for the accompanist.; the Academy will provide applicants with a Piano/Harpichordist accompanist.

The Examination Board may request full or partial performance of the programme.

The pieces must be prepared in full and performed from memory.

The Panel may ask the candidates to describe the motivations and objectives connected to attending the course

No alternative examination dates will be offered.

Duration

The course runs over a period of three years.

The course includes:

- two intermediate progression examinations (Year I to II; Year II to III);
- a final Diploma examination at the conclusion of Year III.

In exceptional circumstances, and subject to approval by the Academic Board, the Diploma examination may be undertaken at the conclusion of Year II.

Attendance

Each academic year shall comprise **twenty-five days of lessons** delivered by the Professor. Students shall be required to attend a minimum of **twelve individual lessons** per year, in addition to all collective and artistic activities included within the curriculum.

Attendance schedules are agreed directly with the Professor. Any **Inability to attend one or more scheduled lessons shall be communicated to the Professor and to the Academic Office (*Segreteria Didattica*: didattica@santacecilia.it) as far in advance as possible, in order to facilitate rescheduling where possible.**

Repeated and/or unjustified absences may result in the exclusion from the progression to the next academic year or Diploma examinations.

In the event of interruption due to certified health reasons, the student may be permitted to repeat the interrupted academic year in the subsequent year, subject to submission of appropriate medical documentation. **Suspension of attendance for educational or artistic reasons shall not be permitted.** In cases of voluntary withdrawal, a new application for admission shall be required, and the entrance examination must be undertaken again.

Students are required to inform their Professor of any external educational and/or artistic commitments during the course. In the case where, students enrolled in other courses are asked to submit a certificate of enrolment of the attended courses (2nd level / master programmes, etc.).

Progression examinations

At the conclusion of each academic year, students shall undertake a progression examination in order to be admitted to the subsequent year.

Progression from course year I to II

- Performance of three arias, taken from Operas / Oratorios / Sacred or Secular Cantatas by any composer, one of which from the Baroque repertoire,
- Performance of a complete operatic role.

The programme must be prepared in full and performed from memory.

The Commission may require full or partial performance of the submitted programme.

Progression from course year II to III

- Performance of three arias drawn from Operas / Oratorios / Sacred or Secular Cantatas by any composer, including one from the Baroque repertoire, each differing from those presented in the previous year;
- Performance of one complete operatic role, likewise different from that previously presented.

The programme must be prepared in full and performed from memory.

The Commission may request the execution of all or part of the submitted program.

Should a student fail to pass a Progression examination, he/she shall be entitled to re-apply for admission to the course only after one academic year has passed.

Diploma examination

The Diploma examination consists of the public performance of a concert programme of approximately one hour. The programme shall include two complete operatic roles, one of which must be drawn from the Baroque repertoire.

The programme must be performed in its entirety and from memory.

Decisions made by Examination Panels for admissions, progression and diplomas are final and not subject to appeal.

Fees

Examination and attendance fees

- € 50.00 entrance examination;
- € 950.00 yearly attendance (In the case of simultaneous enrolment in the Chamber Music course, one of the two fees is reduced to €800.00.);
- € 100.00 progression examination;
- € 250.00 diploma examination.

Students who have not paid their tuition and examination fees in full will not be admitted to lessons or examinations.

All payments, specifying as reason "Singing Course," may be made via:

▪ wire transfer

c/c n. 9872, made out to Fondazione Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia
Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) Agenzia n. 6340 di Roma, Via del Tritone, 31
IBAN: IT31 I 010 0503 2400 0000 0009 872
SWIFT: BIC BNL IITRR

- **Paypal** on Fondazione's website at this link <https://santacecilia.it/alta-formazione/paypal>

Proof of payment of the attendance fee must be submitted to the Academic Office within 15 days of admission (*Segreteria didattica*: didattica@santacecilia.it). The attendance fee may be paid in two equal instalments, the second of which will be due no later than 1 March.

Withdrawal from the course shall not entitle the student to a refund of any fees paid.

Scholarships

For the Academic Year 2026-2027, the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, thanks to the contribution of the Boris Christoff Foundation, has approved the allocation of Scholarships for students of the Advanced Courses with the aim of providing concrete support for attending the academic path. The relevant Regulations with the allocation criteria will be published shortly.

Information and contacts

Academic office (*Segreteria didattica*)

Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia
Via Vittoria, 6 - 00187 Roma
Tel: +39 0632817.348 - 321 - 305
E-mail: didattica@santacecilia.it

All requests and communications to the academic office (*Segreteria didattica*) should be e-mailed to didattica@santacecilia.it specifying the purpose of the request for quicker handling.